

Application No. 10/733,543
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REMARKS:

These remarks are in response to the non-final Office Action mailed October 11, 2006, in which claims 1-21 are pending. Claims 8-12 and 15-20 are withdrawn from consideration. Claims 1-7, 13, 14 and 21 currently stand rejected.

In the present Response, the Applicant has amended claims 1 and 21. Both claims were amended, as shown above, to recite that the second layer is not in contact with the skin during normal shaving. The amendments to both claims are supported by at least FIGS. 2-7 of the specification. Therefore, no new matter has been entered in making the above-described amendments.

3. Claims 1-7, 13, 14 and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,298,558 to Tseng et al. (hereinafter "the Tseng patent")

In light of the amendments to claims 1 and 21, the Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner's rejection, and have traversed the rejection below.

The Tseng patent does not disclose each and every recitation of claims 1 or 21, as amended, and therefore the rejection is improper. "A claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference." See MPEP 2131 (*citing Verdegaal Bros. v. Union Oil Co. of California*, 814 F.2d 628, 631, 2 USPQ2d 1051, 1053 (Fed. Cir. 1987)).

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Claim 1, as amended, recites a multi-layered comfort strip secured to a razor body. The multi-layered comfort strip includes a first layer and a second layer. The first layer defines a first side that is generally in contact with the surface being shaved during normal shaving. The first layer also has a first material composition that has a first thermal expansion coefficient. The second layer is mated to the first layer and has a second material composition. The second layer is secured to the razor body such that the second layer is not in contact with the skin during normal shaving. The second material composition has a second thermal expansion coefficient that more closely matches a thermal expansion coefficient of the razor body than does said first thermal expansion coefficient.

Claim 21, as amended, recites a multi-layered comfort strip secured to a razor body. The multi-layered comfort strip includes a first layer and a second layer. The first layer defines a first side that is generally exposed to the surface being shaved during shaving. The second layer is mated to said first layer and is secured to said razor body such that the second layer is not in contact with the skin during shaving. The first material composition of the first layer differs from a second material composition of the second layer.

Notably, both claims now recite having a second layer that is not in contact with the skin during normal shaving.

The Tseng patent relates to a skin engaging member for use in razor blade cartridge assemblies and shaving systems of the wet shave type. In one embodiment, there is provided a two-component, control-release shaving device consisting of (a) a sheath layer made from thermoplastic resins with openings therein and (b) a core region containing internal shaving aids. Potentially, the device can maintain surface appearance, control-release the shaving aids, minimize the degradation of the shaving aids, and prevent the shaving aids from being trapping in a strip. Furthermore, the addition of low-melt additives to the shaving aids becomes feasible and the compatibility between the shaving aids and the shaving aid carrier such as polystyrene in the lubricating strip composite becomes less critical. In each of the embodiments, the sheath is in contact with the skin during normal shaving.

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Accordingly, the Tseng reference does not disclose at least a multi-layered comfort strip having a second layer as defined by claims 1 and 21 (*i.e.*, a second layer that is positioned such that it is not in contact with the skin during normal shaving). As mentioned above, the Tseng device is designed so that the sheath, which the Examiner has cited as being the "second layer", is in contact with the skin during normal shaving. In the Tseng device, the "second layer" has holes through which material from the core (or "first layer") exudes. Because the Tseng reference does not disclose each and every element of claims 1 and 21, the current rejection under §102(b) is improper. Favorable reconsideration in light of the present amendments and remarks is requested.

Claims 2-7, 13 and 14 depend from claim 1 and are therefore also allowable over for at least the same reasons stated above with respect to independent claim 1, as well as by virtue of the additional claim recitations included therein. Favorable reconsideration of the present rejection of these claims is also requested.

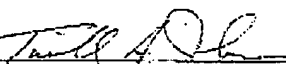
In summary, applicants have traversed each rejection made by the Examiner. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the rejections be withdrawn and the present application be passed onto allowance.

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No fees are believed to be due with the present response; however, if any additional fees are due, please charge them to Account No. 503342 maintained by the Applicants' attorney. If the Examiner has any questions, please feel free to contact the Attorney of Record at the contact information provided below.

Respectfully submitted,

By 
Timothy A. Johnson
Registration No. 51,234
Attorney for Applicant

Michaud-Duffy Group LLP
306 Industrial Park Road, Suite 206
Middletown, CT 06457-1532
(860) 632-7200